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ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

JUNEAU:
Alaska's Seat of Government

June 1990

Alaska's Temporary Help Industry

Seasonal Turnaround in Unemployment

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

ALASKA ECONOMIC
TRENDS

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Alaska Economic Trends is a monthly publication dealing with economic-related issues of Alaska. Opinions and analyses expressed by guest authors may not be consistent with those of the Alaska Department of Labor.

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Cover design by Jim Fowler

Juneau: Alaska's Seat of Government

by Brian N. Rae

The economic history of Alaska's capital city shows that Juneau has been predominantly a one industry town. The result is a history which recounts Juneau's economy dodging the occasional hazards brought on by a lack of economic diversification. And despite efforts to broaden its economic base, the Juneau economy is still highly dependent upon one industry for its economic future.

Juneau Founded On Gold Mining

In Juneau's early years, the primary industry was gold mining. When the huge mining operations of the Alaska-Juneau, Treadwell, Alaska Mexican, Ready Bullion, and Seven Hundred Foot mines prospered, the city's economy thrived. On the other hand, the city's future turned bleak when a mining tunnel under Gastineau Channel flooded in 1917 and faced further hardship when gold mining was deemed a "nonessential activity" during World War II.

At one point, the seafood industry was a significant player in Juneau's economy. Two large scale facilities offered full services to Southeast's fishing industry. The expansion of the industry throughout Southeast increased the competition for the catch. Other Southeast localities were closer to the productive fishing grounds, and this seriously harmed Juneau's seafood processors. Juneau-based companies have attempted to recapture some of this market, but currently only one processor operates in Juneau, and only sporadically.

Government Employment is now Juneau's Mainstay

Juneau's current economic mainstay is state government. Unfortunately, state government's reliance on a single source for most of its revenues, and the projected decline of these revenues, does not bode well for continued employment stability in Juneau.

The reliance of Juneau's economy on government employment was apparent in the late 1970s and early 1980s during attempts to relocate the capital. Several statewide elections during this period almost turned Juneau's worst economic fear into a reality. New investment in commercial and residential construction during this period of uncertainty was restrained, but the degree to which the capital move issue slowed growth in Juneau is not clear. All of Alaska

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Table 1

Annual Average Employment
City and Borough of Juneau 1988

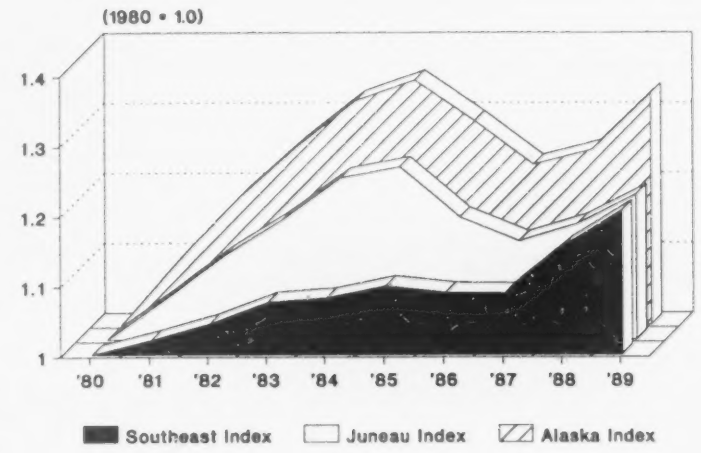
	Employment	% of Total Employment
Nonag. Wage & Salary	12,500	100.0%
Mining	169	1.3
Construction	341	2.7
Manufacturing	341	2.7
Seafood Processing	84	0.7
Lumber and Wood Products	163	1.3
Transportation	747	6.0
Trade	2,023	16.2
Wholesale	197	1.6
Retail	1,826	14.6
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	561	4.5
Services & Misc.	2,010	16.1
Government	6,310	50.5
Federal	1,039	8.3
State	4,020	32.2
Local	1,251	10.0

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Figure 1

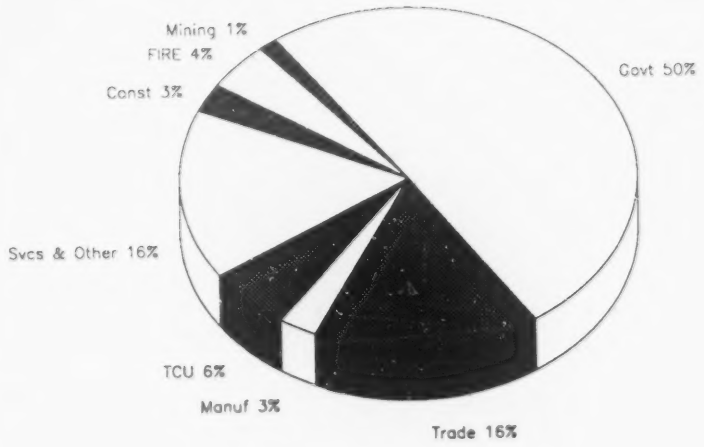
Employment Index
Juneau, Southeast and Alaska



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Figure 2

Employment by Major Industry 1988
City and Borough of Juneau



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

was growing at a tremendous rate during the early 1980s. Juneau also showed strong growth, leading Southeast Alaska but falling below the statewide growth rate. (See Figure 1.) The prohibitive expense of the capital move finally persuaded voters to reject the plans, and Juneau's economic future was secured for the moment.

The resolution of the capital move issue and population increases contributed to a building boom in Juneau. Rising state budgets and additional state programs combined with pent-up development pressures to fuel a building boom during 1983-1985. This boom was quickly brought to a halt by the 1986 fall in the price of oil. Faced with falling revenues, state government was forced to tighten its belt, and Juneau's main industry was under pressure to cut back.

Juneau Rebounding

For the present, Juneau seems to have weathered another economic storm; employment, population and property values are all on the rise. Although significant losses were recorded in all these areas during the most recent recession, employment and population gains are well on their way to new highs. Property values have not yet matched their precipitously high levels of the mid 1980s, but have turned around dramatically.

An Anomaly in Southeast

Before highlighting the mainstays of the Juneau economy, it is interesting to compare Juneau to the rest of Southeast Alaska. It quickly becomes apparent that the region's major industries play only minor roles in the Juneau Borough's economy. Most of Southeast Alaska relies on natural resources for an economic base. While cities such as Ketchikan and Sitka serve as regional trade and service centers, their economies are primarily resource-based.

The region is heavily dependent upon manufacturing, which employs one in six Southeast Alaskans. Most of these jobs are in the seafood processing and timber industries. On the other hand, except for the corporate office staff of several companies involved in these

industries, Juneau sees very little direct employment from manufacturing industries. (See Table 1.)

Fishing, the economic cornerstone of many of Alaska's coastal communities, has varied from somewhat important to virtually nonexistent in Juneau's economy. Most recent attempts to lure more fishing boats into Juneau harbors have met with both limited successes and resistance. A small number of Juneau merchants earn significant shares of their income from fishing activities, and projects such as Juneau's fish hatcheries exist solely because of this industry. Still, the percentage of Juneau's economy dependent on the seafood industry is small compared to other coastal Alaska communities.

While much of Southeast has based an economy around timber operations, this is another industry which has more of a secondary than a direct impact on Juneau's economy. Several corporations active in this industry are based in Juneau, but most activities occur outside of the borough. Local transportation companies and some retailers benefit from the industry, but the local economy is not nearly as dependent on the timber industry as other communities in Southeast.

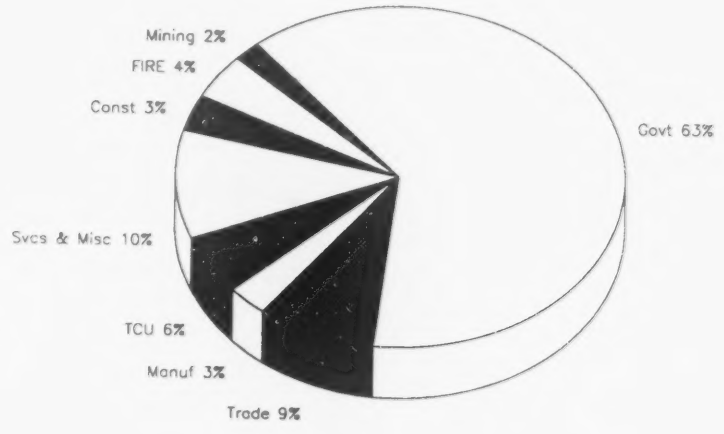
Government Reigns in Juneau

While Juneau is not a resource-based economy, it's clear that what Juneau does have is government, and lots of it. This is no surprise, being the capital of Alaska, a regional hub, the third largest city, and the headquarters for many federal government agencies.

How important is government employment to Juneau? Half of all jobs in Juneau are in the public sector, with one-third in state government alone. Increasing the public sector's importance is its comparatively large payroll. The public sector employs 50% of Juneau's workers, but pays out 63% of the total Juneau payroll. (See Figures 2 and 3.) In comparison, slightly less than one in three Alaskans are employed in the public sector. (See Figure 4.) This larger proportion for Juneau's public sector is caused both by the overall size of government employment and Juneau's small remaining economic base.

Figure 3

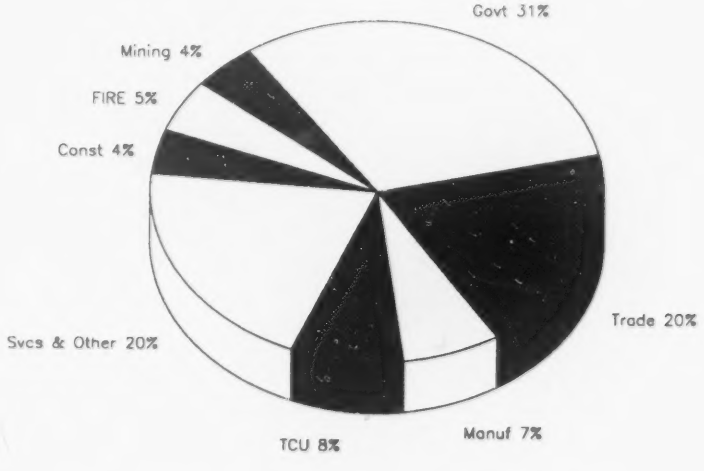
Payroll by Major Industry 1988
City and Borough of Juneau



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Figure 4

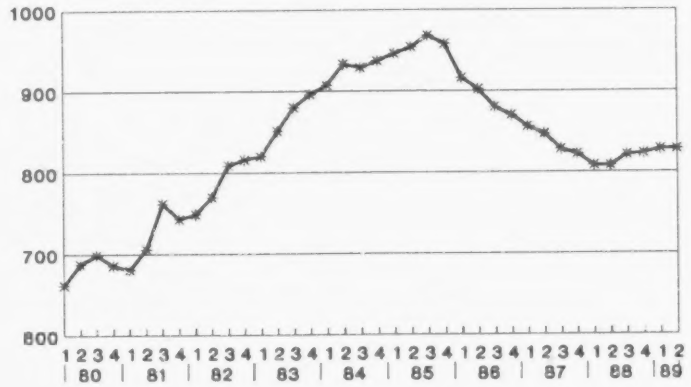
Employment by Major Industry 1988 – Alaska



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Figure 5

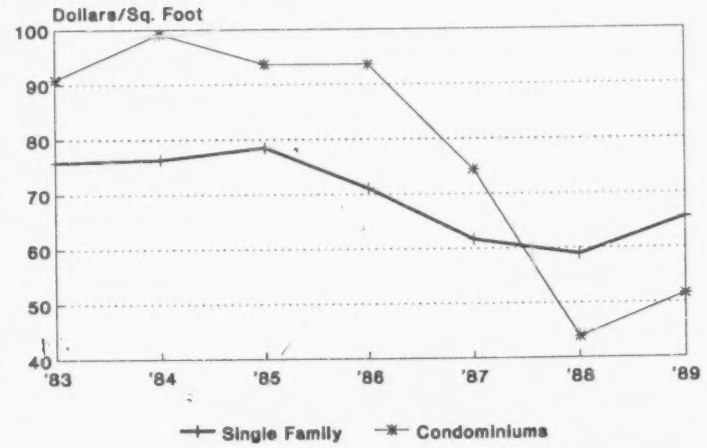
Juneau Employers
1st Quarter 1980 – 2nd Quarter 1989



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Figure 6

Residential Unit Sale Price
Single Family and Condominiums



Source: CBJ Community Planning Department; *Juneau Trends*, February 1990

Juneau's dependence on public sector employment is partially the result of a build-up of government services made possible by skyrocketing oil revenue. Addressing the growth of government employment in Juneau, the August 1989 *Juneau Trends* asserts: "For the next 10 years (from 1973 through 1984), petro-dollars flowing from the North Slope to the capital city would generate an average of 170 new state government jobs in Juneau each year. In terms of impact, it was like adding nearly the full employment of a Green's Creek mine every 12 months."[1]

Central State Government Functions Employ the Most People

The same issue of *Juneau Trends* looked at Juneau's state government employment and divided it into three functions: central (or statewide); regional; and local. Two-thirds of Juneau's state employees worked for statewide programs, one-quarter dealt with regional tasks, and less than 5% were employed for local tasks.[2]

Debate over the appropriate size of state government is outside the scope of this article. However, it is fair to say that even if reduced to absolute minimal levels, state government employment will continue to be the driving force behind Juneau's economy for the foreseeable future.

Dependance on Public Sector has a Cost for Juneau's Economy

Government positions are less tenuous than many private sector jobs, but Juneau's reliance on a single industry has its costs. Juneau's economy was hit hard by the declines in oil revenues during 1986 and 1987. In order to cut the state budget, many state positions were either cut or left unfilled. The impact on Juneau's employment is evident in Figure 1.

Private Sector Dependent on Public Sector

It is impossible to totally separate Juneau's public sector employment from the overall economy. Government employment has a multiplier effect —

income earned by government employees is spent at private sector establishments, creating private sector jobs. Additionally, many Juneau-based companies do a significant portion of their business with public sector agencies.

Figure 5 points out this public/private sector relationship. The decline in government employment and spending was the major reason that over 15% of Juneau businesses closed their doors between 1985 and 1988.

Compounding the problem of separating out public sector employment is its sheer size — in Juneau it dwarfs the private sector. (See Figures 2 and 3.) A recent McDowell Group study puts this relationship into perspective. According to the report, Juneau's state government employment:

- is larger than the entire Alaska forest products industry;
- is five times the size of the entire Southeast tourism trade;
- is ten times the size of the proposed A-J mine;
- is twenty times the size of Greens Creek;
- and generates twenty times the payroll of Juneau's tourist trades. [3]

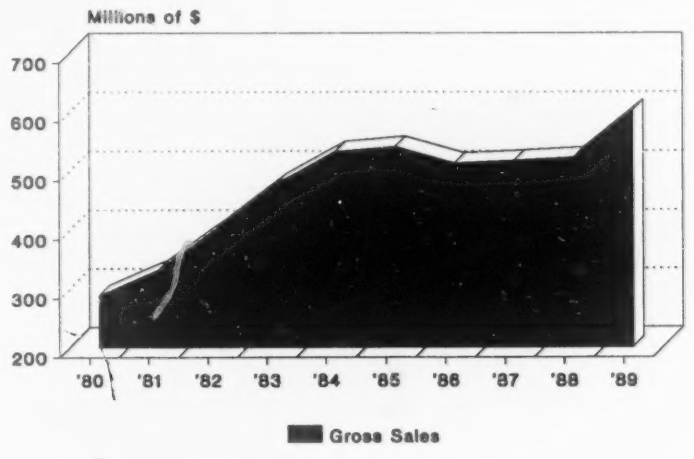
Comparing private sector employment patterns between Juneau and other areas of the state shows some surprising results, in spite of the analytical problems associated with Juneau's large public sector.

TCU Employment Different in Juneau

The Transportation, Communications and Utilities industry (TCU) accounts for about 12% of total private sector employment throughout the state. However, Juneau's TCU industry differs from the rest of Southeast Alaska. The air transportation industry in Juneau has a much larger share of total TCU employment than in the rest of Southeast. The other industries in this group, communications and utilities, are also well represented in the Borough. Regional and local telephone and television stations are located in Juneau, and the city's larger population means more utility companies (and therefore more utility workers) than found in many other Alaskan cities.

Figure 7

Gross Business Sales – Juneau 1980-1989



Source: City and Borough of Juneau, Treasury Division

Juneau Construction Comparable to Southeast

Somewhat surprisingly, construction employment levels are nearly identical for both Juneau and Southeast **private** sectors. At present, very few Juneau construction jobs are directly attributable to Juneau being the state capital. One such future project is the new Department of Environmental Conservation building, constructed in Juneau because it is the capital.

Most other government funded projects are of a regional or local nature, and compete for funding with other public sector projects throughout the state. For that reason, one would expect the share of construction employment to be roughly equivalent when comparing Juneau to other Southeast communities.

Printers are Juneau's Biggest Manufacturer

The most glaring difference in private industry employment is found in manufacturing. In Southeast Alaska's private sector, over one in four jobs are in manufacturing. Juneau's lack of any significant timber or seafood processing operations means that only about one in 18 private sector jobs are in manufacturing. The largest portion (20%) of Juneau's manufacturing jobs are in commercial printing and publishing.

Mining Holds Biggest Promise for Employment Diversification

Recently, Juneau's private sector has perked up because of mining. The opening of the Greens Creek mine on Admiralty Island (just outside the Borough boundary) was a signal that Juneau's mining industry is reawakening. Greens Creek represented the biggest single mining project to begin production in Southeast Alaska in recent history. Both construction and mining employment were boosted by Greens Creek development during the last two years.

Now in full operation, more than 200 workers are employed at the mine, with a total annual payroll of $10 million.

The same reasons which made Greens Creek viable have also made other ventures, such as the Alaska-Juneau, Kensington and Jualin mine reopenings appear economically feasible. If all of these mining projects come on line, the initial exploration and construction phases would directly employ roughly 1,000 persons, while operations would account for 850 to 900 employees (including those working at Greens Creek, who for the most part live in Juneau). If these employees were added to Juneau's current employment, they would represent approximately 7% of all Juneau jobs and nearly twice that amount if public sector employment is excluded.

One potential boost available from mining occurs through the Borough's ownership of a share of the resource. Unlike most other economic activities, where city revenues are enhanced only through taxes, Juneau owns a significant share of the ore body of the Alaska-Juneau mine. Similar to state royalty payments for North Slope oil, the city should receive some direct compensation for the resource. If the city charges rates comparable to private owners for its ore reserves, there is the potential for a revenue windfall if the A-J mining project continues.

Tourism — Small But Important Player

Over the past several years more Alaskan communities have been looking to cash in on tourism, and Juneau is no exception. A variety of promotional organizations ranging from the Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau to regional and statewide organizations are attempting to attract travelers to the area. Since tourists consume many of the same goods and services that residents and business travelers consume; it is difficult to gauge the employment impact of tourism.

Studies of Southeast Alaska tourists and their expenditures help put tourism-related employment into perspective. According to a report from the Juneau-based McDowell Group, Juneau attracted 246,900 pleasure visitors in 1988 and they spent a total of $24.5 million. To put this level of economic activity into perspective, Juneauites can look north to Skagway, where the number of pleasure tourists and their expenditures equal about 80% of those of Juneau.[4/]

Skagway is possibly the Alaska city most dependent on tourism. The vast majority of Skagway's employment, which stood at 370 on an annual average basis in 1988, is tourism-related. If one assumed that Skagway is **completely** tourism dependent, and that Juneau's tourist industry is 25% larger than Skagway's, then this would mean that between 450 and 475 jobs were created by Juneau's tourism industry in 1988. This would amount to slightly less than 4% of Juneau's total employment in that year and about 8% of total private sector employment.[5/]

Housing, Sales Tax Data Underline Juneau's Recent Recovery

For Juneau's overall economic health, several different data sets serve to chart its course. Figure 6 shows how housing prices have fluctuated in Juneau since 1982. The housing market has been very volatile in recent years, with costs peaking in the 1985-1986 period and falling sharply until 1988. In 1989, prices again began to rise. Early indications in 1990 suggest that housing prices are continuing a strong upward movement, with local realtors saying that single family units are increasing nearly 1% per month.

Sales tax records provide data on gross business sales in Juneau. Following the path of other economic indicators, total gross receipts peaked in 1985. (See Figure 7.) Unlike some other economic indicators, gross receipts declined for only one year (in 1986). Gains were small until 1989, when sales increased by more than 15%.

Government will not be Toppled as King Anytime Soon

Juneau has a history of economic swings, and has managed to weather most of them. Government has been, and will continue to be, the major employer for the foreseeable future. This dependence on a single industry is nearly unavoidable given Juneau's small size and the current scale of state government employment.

Some projects are underway to diversify Juneau's economy. Tourism advocates have worked hard to attract more people, and dollars, into Juneau. Their activities have won significant increases in tourist traffic through Juneau.

Currently, mining is the private sector industry with the greatest potential economic impact. If the three major mine proposals come into production, the area's mining industry (including the Greens Creek mine) will eventually employ 850 to 900 miners. These are well compensated, year-round jobs, and will create secondary employment in the borough.

Economic diversification and expansion are important to Juneau, and will become more so as pressure to reduce state government grows. Promoting new industries and businesses can ease the economic pain of any such reduction. It cannot be ignored, however, that Juneau's economic future relies on the future of government, and in particular state government.

Notes:

1/ CBJ, Community Planning Dept., *Juneau Trends*, Volume Two, Number Five, August 1989, p 12.

2/ Ibid, p 14.

3/ *Juneau's Population: Current Estimate and Future Forecasts*; The McDowell Group, April 24, 1990, p 2.

4/ *Southeast Alaska Visitor Research Program*, Summer 1988; Southeast Alaska Marketing Council, p 158.

5/ Juneau has a much higher number of business travelers than does Skagway. Efforts are made to attract conventions and conferences to Juneau, but a majority of these business travelers come to Juneau because it is the capital and a regional hub. The business tourist seems much less influenced by advertisements or promotions than does the pleasure tourist.

The Fill-In Workforce: Alaska's Temporary Help Industry

By Neal Fried

Most businesses have used temporary help to meet their labor needs at one time or another. The reasons employers use temporary help vary, but the most common justifications are: to fill in for someone on vacation, to handle a temporary surge in business, or to reduce labor costs. The temporary help industry is small in Alaska, but this industry affects a significant number of employees and employers.

Most of the discussion in this article will be limited to the temporary work force employed by temporary help supply firms. This overlooks those temporary workers hired directly by employers. The reason directly-hired temporaries are excluded from this analysis is because data is scarce for this type of employee. It should be acknowledged that directly-hired temporaries may exceed the number of temporary workers employed through the agency system. Much of the analysis, however, can be applied to all varieties of temporary help (temps).

About the author:

Neal Fried is a labor economist employed with the Research & Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. He is based in Anchorage.

Alaska's Temporary Help Industry less Dynamic than the Nation's

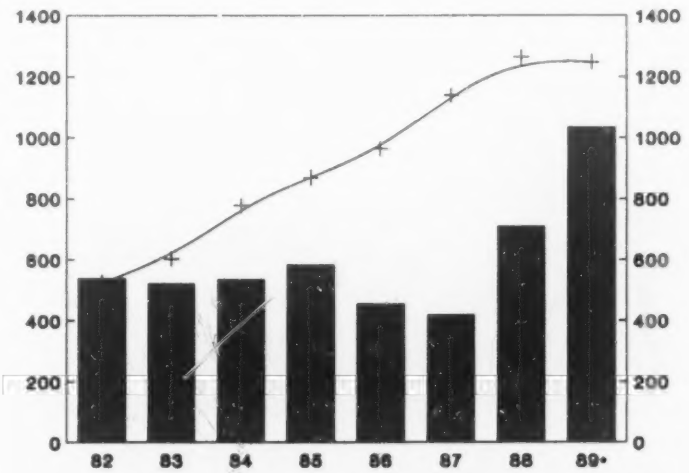
In Alaska, the number of temporary workers has not changed significantly through most of the 1980s. This is quite a contrast to what happened in the rest of the nation during the last decade. Employment in the temporary help industry tripled in the rest of the nation during the 80s. In Alaska, temporary agency employment grew more slowly than overall employment during most of the decade, whereas nationally it grew much faster than overall employment. In 1989 temporary help agencies were responsible for 1.2% of the nation's wage and salary employment versus only 0.5% in Alaska.

Why the discrepancy? One reason is that temporary employment is more prevalent in larger urban communities. Of the temporary agency employees in Alaska, more than 90% are in Anchorage. Alaska also has a large public sector (30% of Alaska's wage and salary employment versus 16% in the nation) which is a minimal user of temporary employment services.

In the private sector, manufacturing has been an important source of growth for temporary help services. Many of the nation's manufacturers, facing stiff international competition, are turning to temporary help to cut their labor

Figure 1

Alaska and U.S. Temporary Services Employment Growth



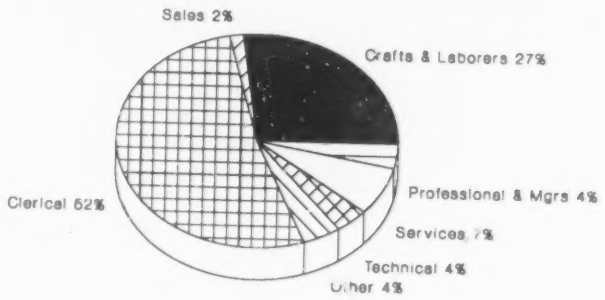
*9-month average (for Alaska)

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

costs. Alaska's manufacturing industry employs only 7% of all wage and salary workers as opposed to 18% nationwide. This is another reason why the temporary service industry presence is not as widespread in Alaska as elsewhere in the nation.

Figure 2

Occupations of Temporary Workers Nationwide in September 1987



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Temporary Work Surges in 1988 and 1989

In 1988 and 1989 employment in Alaska's temp industry displayed some vigorous growth. Some of this growth can be attributed to a revision in the industry classification scheme that began in 1988 (see April 1990 *Trends*). But a portion of this surge came as a result of growing demand for temporary workers. In 1988, Alaska's economy began to recover from the recession of 1986 and 1987. As the economy bounced back, some employers may have hired temps instead of permanent employees to meet immediate labor needs. Employers may have preferred temporary help if the recession left them uncertain about their business' future. Also, labor shortages were beginning to show up in the latter part of 1988 and some employers may have chosen to use temps as a partial solution to this problem.

In 1989 employment in the temporary help industry skyrocketed. (See Figure 1.) A good deal of this increase can be directly attributed to the oil spill. The cleanup effort utilized a large number of temporary workers. In a sense almost all of the workers involved in the oil spill were temporary. The cleanup resulted in some unique examples of the use of temps. For example, some of the otter rescue centers were staffed by employees of a temporary supply agency. Now that Alaska's economy has settled down a bit, it will be interesting to see if employment in the temporary help industry falls back to its pre-spill levels.

What Jobs Do Temps Fill?

The temporary work force has been stereotyped as clerical help. The image is that temporary help agencies provide secretaries, receptionists and data entry clerks. However, the national profile of the industry does not support this generalization. About half of the temporary workers in the nation are employed in administrative support occupations, but engineers, nurses, computer programmers, craftsmen, security guards and other occupations are also being filled by temporary help agencies. (See Figure 2.)

Alaska matches the more traditional occupational profile of temp services — administrative support occupations are the bread and butter of Alaska's temp industry. No comprehensive occupational profile of Alaska's temp industry exists, but a survey of more than half of the temporary supply firms revealed that these firms place their temps predominantly in administrative support occupations. A few of these agencies place engineers, other technical occupations, roustabouts, laborers and a variety of other occupations.

Temporary Employment — Good or Bad?

On the national level the topic of temporary help has received considerable attention. The discussion has not been limited to the use of temporary help firms but includes all varieties of temporary help including part-time employment. There are two schools of thought on the growing use of temporary help in the national economy. One is that growth in temporary help was inevitable because of an increased need for workplace flexibility, both for employees and employers. This flexibility is necessitated by the growing pressures of competition and the increasing need for employee flexibility. Another school of thought believes that temporary help is harmful to both the individual and the economy. These two schools of thought are not necessarily exclusive of each other.

The Plus Side: Flexibility is the Key

The advantages of temporary help can be numerous for employers. Recruiting costs are cut since the employer does not have to conduct employee searches and interviews. Employers can use a temporary work force to meet a fluctuating demand for staff. Being overstaffed or understaffed becomes less of a problem because temporary employees can be quickly hired or let go. Another big motivator for employers is the fact that employee benefits for temps are minimal. Most temps have to purchase their own health benefits and vacation benefits are limited. In

addition to cutting labor costs, some employers look for potential permanent employees by hiring temps. By using temporary help as a training and screening process for permanent employees, the cost and risks of hiring a new employee can be reduced.

There are also advantages for employees. Some people want flexible work schedules. According to temporary help agencies, many of their employees only want to work during the school year and take summers off to be with their children. Others only want to work part of the year because they travel or go to school during the other part of the year. Some temps use the agencies as a way to sample a variety of employers before settling on their ideal permanent employer. Others are supplementing their income or simply get bored working for just one employer.

The Minus Side: Disadvantages to Both Individual and Economy

The disadvantages for temporary employees can be many. One of the most obvious is that benefits are typically lacking, except those required by law. No less important is the fact that wages are often lower. Some research also indicates that temps are less likely to receive training. And most importantly, temporary employees are the least economically secure since they are the first to be let go during a period of slack demand.

In addition to potential disadvantages for individuals employed in this market, some researchers feel there may be more subtle losses that accrue to the economy. One example of this is the bond that exists between employer and employee. They point out that this bond is already weak in this country and feel the growing use of temporary employees will erode this bond even further. This leads to a lack of company loyalty which in turn leads to a decline in productivity. It may mean temporary workers have little incentive to learn new skills because there is only a slim chance for advancement. However, some temporary agencies do provide training and the ability to advance.

Temporary Help Agencies are a Small, but Growing Group

Many Alaskan firms have hired a temporary work force at one time or another because their business was in a tight spot or they were trying to save on labor costs. Compared to the rest of the nation, Alaska has a smaller temporary employment industry. This is probably because of Alaska's large proportion of public sector employment, which is a small user of temps. In addition, Alaska has a much smaller manufacturing industry, which is a large employer of temporary workers in the rest of the nation.

During most of the 1980s the number of temporary workers in Alaska remained relatively stagnant until 1988-1989 when activity began to climb. The increases were brought on by the recovery in the economy and oil spill activity.

Nationally, approximately half of all temporary workers are employed in clerical occupations; the rest can be found in other occupational categories. Although no comprehensive occupational profile exists for Alaska's temporary work force, survey evidence indicates that Alaska's temporary help industry concentrates on placing temps in clerical occupations.

There is a vigorous national debate concerning the implications of the growing temporary work force. One group believes it is an inevitable trend because both employees and employers are demanding a more flexible work place. Other researchers believe its growth will lead to a further weakening of the employer/employee relationship, which will ultimately lead to a less productive economy and a more poorly compensated work force. This debate will certainly continue.

TRAVELING NURSE:
A Thriving Temporary Help Occupation

Hospitals throughout the nation have been grappling with a severe nursing shortage--and Alaska is no exception (see "Is There A Nurse In The House?" in the December 1989 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*). One solution that many hospitals are choosing is to hire temporary nurses and other specialized medical personnel. For the hospital it is an expensive alternative to hiring permanent staff, but sometimes there is no choice. In the business these professionals are referred to as traveling nurses. Their services are currently in enormous demand. In Alaska these nurses are hired through specialized agencies such as the American Mobile Nurse, Flying Nurses and others.

Unlike many temporary jobs, a traveling nurse can be well compensated, and to some nurses it offers an interesting alternative to a regular nursing job. Travel and lodging expenses are often provided by the employer. Traveling nurses also receive other benefits. Their average stint is 13 weeks. These nurses have chosen this line of work because the pay is good and they like to travel. Some believe traveling temporary help is going to become a growing trend for other highly technical fields such as engineering and computer work.

March Unemployment Rate Drops, Signaling Seasonal Turnaround

by John Boucher

Alaska's statewide unemployment rate fell nearly a full percentage point in March, dropping nine-tenths of a percentage point to 7.9%. Last March the unemployment rate in Alaska was 8.1%. (See Table 6.) While the unemployment rate improved, Alaska had the dubious distinction of having the second highest statewide unemployment rate in the nation. (See Table 1.)

The drop in March's unemployment rate started the annual seasonal decrease in Alaska's unemployment rate. The unemployment rate begins a gradual fall in March as seasonal activities begin gearing up, and it is expected to continue falling until July or August, when the rate should begin climbing again.

Table 1

Top Five Statewide Unemployment Rates March 1990

Rank	State	Rate
1	Rhode Island	8.2%
2	Alaska	7.9%
3	Michigan	7.6%
3	West Virginia	7.6%
5	Arkansas	7.3%

Source: West Virginia Department of Employment Security

Drop Signals Return to Work In Construction & Manufacturing

The decline in the number of unemployed Alaskans signaled a return to work in Alaska's seasonal industries. The drop was also evident in Alaska's Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits data. While UI data doesn't cover the entire unemployed population, it is an excellent indicator because it covers a significant portion of the unemployed. March UI data showed that construction and manufacturing workers were the most likely type of worker to return to work. The number of construction workers on Alaska's UI rolls dropped 15% from February to March, and the number of manufacturing workers receiving UI benefits dropped 35% compared to February. Although every industry had fewer workers claiming UI benefits in March than in February, no other industry had a decline of more than 10%.

Table 2

Alaska Unemployment Rates by Age and Sex 1989 Annual Averages (In thousands)

	Population (16+)	Labor Force	Rate of Labor Force Participation	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Error Range
Total	350	253	72.2%	236	17	6.7%	5.9-7.4%
Men	172	137	79.9	127	10	7.4	6.4-8.5
Women	178	115	64.8	109	7	5.8	4.7-6.8
Both sexes, Age 16-19	29	15	50.9	13	2	14.2	10.5-18.0

Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Males Returned to Work In Greater Numbers

Alaska's March UI claims data indicated that males were more likely than females to drop off the UI rolls. The number of males receiving UI benefits fell more than 14%, while the number of females receiving unemployment benefits dropped 8.5%. The bigger decline in male unemployment benefits can be explained by the typical characteristics of construction and manufacturing workers. Construction and manufacturing firms tend to employ males to a much greater extent than females. Since construction and manufacturing in Alaska are more

affected by changes in the seasons than other industries, males tend to experience more seasonal unemployment. This seasonal unemployment experienced by Alaskan males is a contributing factor in the unemployment rate for Alaska's males being higher than the unemployment rate for females. In 1989 the unemployment rate was 5.8% for females and 7.4% for males. (See Table 2.) Alaska is one of the few states in the nation where the male unemployment rate is significantly higher than the female unemployment rate.

The unemployment rate and unemployment benefits data were not the only March statistics that indicated a seasonal upswing. Wage and salary employment statistics confirmed the beginning of a summer revival, as there were 3,800 more jobs than in February. (See Table 3.) Manufacturing, construction and retail trade led the way in statewide job gains.

Manufacturing Revving Up For Another Year

The largest employment gains were in the manufacturing industry. Manufacturing employment gains were primarily in Southwestern Alaska and Kodiak as winter fisheries for bottomfish and crab added employees at processing plants.

Not all of the employment gains in the manufacturing industry were in seafood processing. The remaining manufacturing employment gains were in Southeast Alaska as logging operations began to gear up. The processing portion of the timber industry, the pulp mills and sawmills, are not subject to the drastic seasonal fluctuations that logging is. During the last six years, logging employment in February has been about 40% of its peak employment month. The reason for the different employment patterns is a simple one; pulp mill and sawmill work takes place indoors year-round, and logging operations are outdoors and more dependent upon weather conditions.

Table 3

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work — Alaska

	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	3/89	Changes from: 2/90	Changes from: 3/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	221,400	217,600	211,300	3,800	10,100
Goods-producing	32,000	29,400	30,300	2,600	1,700
Mining	10,400	10,200	9,700	200	700
Construction	8,000	7,100	7,100	900	900
Manufacturing	13,600	12,100	13,500	1,500	100
Durable Goods	3,100	2,500	3,100	600	0
Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	1,800	2,400	600	0
Nondurable Goods	10,500	9,600	10,400	900	100
Seafood Processing	6,800	5,900	6,800	900	0
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	0	0
Service-producing	189,400	188,200	181,000	1,200	8,400
Transportation	18,300	18,100	16,700	200	1,600
Trucking & Warehousing	2,300	2,200	2,000	100	300
Water Transportation	1,000	1,100	1,000	-100	0
Air Transportation	6,200	6,100	5,500	100	700
Communications	3,100	3,100	3,100	0	0
Trade	42,900	42,300	41,100	600	1,800
Wholesale Trade	7,900	7,800	7,300	100	600
Retail Trade	35,000	34,500	33,800	500	1,200
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	5,100	5,100	4,900	0	200
Food Stores	6,600	6,500	6,200	100	400
Eating & Drinking Places	12,100	11,900	12,000	200	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	10,600	10,500	10,300	100	300
Services & Misc.	46,500	46,200	43,800	300	2,700
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,500	4,300	4,200	200	300
Government	71,100	71,100	69,100	0	2,000
Federal	18,300	18,400	17,700	-100	600
State	21,400	21,500	20,800	-100	600
Local	31,400	31,200	30,600	200	800

Notes: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1989

p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section

Construction Boosted by Pipeline Repair, North Slope & Southeast

Construction employment was gearing up throughout the state, but a large share of the employment gain in March was attributable to heavy construction contractors working on the pipeline repair project. Interior Alaska, Fairbanks, and the Gulf Coast were the regions affected by employment

Table 4

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Municipality of Anchorage

	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	Changes from: 3/89	2/90	3/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	105,200	104,050	100,300	1,150	4,900
Goods-producing	9,350	8,950	9,050	400	300
Mining	3,700	3,650	3,650	50	50
Construction	3,650	3,400	3,550	250	100
Manufacturing	2,000	1,900	1,850	100	150
Service-producing	95,850	95,100	91,250	750	4,600
Transportation	10,050	9,900	8,950	150	1,100
Trucking & Warehousing	1,400	1,350	1,250	50	150
Water Transportation	200	250	200	-50	0
Air Transportation	3,850	3,800	3,400	50	450
Communications	1,800	1,800	1,750	0	50
Trade	25,450	25,050	24,300	400	1,150
Wholesale Trade	5,950	5,800	5,600	150	350
Retail Trade	19,500	19,250	18,700	250	800
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	2,700	2,700	2,500	0	200
Food Stores	3,250	3,150	3,000	100	250
Eating & Drinking Places	7,450	7,350	7,450	100	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,900	6,900	6,850	0	50
Services & Misc.	26,800	26,650	25,100	150	1,700
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,350	2,300	2,200	50	150
Government	26,650	26,600	26,050	50	600
Federal	10,250	10,250	10,100	0	150
State	7,800	7,850	7,400	-50	400
Local	8,600	8,500	8,550	100	50

Fairbanks North Star Borough

	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	Changes from: 3/89	2/90	3/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	25,600	25,300	24,650	300	950
Goods-producing	1,950	1,800	1,800	150	150
Mining	150	150	100	0	50
Construction	1,300	1,150	1,200	150	100
Manufacturing	500	500	500	0	0
Service-producing	23,650	23,500	22,850	150	800
Transportation	1,800	1,750	1,600	50	200
Trucking & Warehousing	450	450	350	0	100
Air Transportation	350	350	300	0	50
Communications	250	250	300	0	-50
Trade	5,300	5,250	5,200	50	100
Wholesale Trade	650	650	650	0	0
Retail Trade	4,650	4,600	4,550	50	100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	500	500	600	0	-100
Food Stores	750	750	700	0	50
Eating & Drinking Places	1,650	1,600	1,650	50	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	850	850	800	0	50
Services & Misc.	5,650	5,650	5,500	0	150
Government	10,050	10,000	9,750	50	300
Federal	3,100	3,100	2,950	0	150
State	4,300	4,250	4,200	50	100
Local	2,650	2,650	2,600	0	50

Anchorage-MatSu Region

	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	Changes from: 3/89	2/90	3/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	112,050	110,950	106,650	1,100	5,400
Goods-producing	9,600	9,250	9,350	350	250
Mining	3,700	3,700	3,750	0	-50
Construction	3,850	3,600	3,700	250	150
Manufacturing	2,050	1,950	1,900	100	150
Service-producing	102,450	101,700	97,300	750	5,150
Transportation	10,700	10,600	9,550	100	1,150
Trade	27,100	26,850	25,750	250	1,350
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,400	7,300	7,250	100	150
Services & Misc.	28,050	27,900	26,250	150	1,800
Government	29,200	29,050	28,500	150	700
Federal	10,400	10,400	10,250	0	150
State	8,600	8,600	8,200	0	400
Local	10,200	10,050	10,050	150	150

Interior Region

	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	Changes from: 3/89	2/90	3/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	29,500	29,050	28,200	450	1,300
Goods-producing	2,100	1,950	1,950	150	150
Mining	250	250	250	0	0
Construction	1,350	1,200	1,200	150	150
Manufacturing	500	500	500	0	0
Service-producing	27,400	27,100	26,250	300	1,150
Transportation	2,000	2,000	1,800	0	200
Trade	5,700	5,600	5,600	100	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	950	950	900	0	50
Services	6,100	6,050	5,900	50	200
Government	12,650	12,500	12,050	150	600
Federal	3,700	3,700	3,500	0	200
State	4,600	4,500	4,450	100	150
Local	4,350	4,300	4,100	50	250

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1989 p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

(cont. on page 13)

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section

Table 4* (cont. from page 12)

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Southeast Region

	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	Changes from: 3/89	2/90	3/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	30,900	29,850	29,500	1,050	1,400
Goods-producing	5,350	4,550	5,100	800	250
Mining	300	300	250	0	50
Construction	950	750	850	200	100
Manufacturing	4,100	3,500	4,000	600	100
Durable Goods	2,250	1,650	2,350	600	-100
Lumber & Wood Products	2,100	1,500	2,200	600	-100
Nondurable Goods	1,850	1,850	1,650	0	200
Seafood Processing	750	750	600	0	150
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	0	0
Service-producing	25,550	25,300	24,400	250	1,150
Transportation	2,100	2,050	2,050	50	50
Trade	4,900	4,850	4,700	50	200
Wholesale Trade	650	650	450	0	200
Retail Trade	4,250	4,200	4,250	50	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Services & Misc.	5,100	4,950	4,750	150	350
Government	12,400	12,400	11,900	0	500
Federal	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	100
State	5,650	5,700	5,450	-50	200
Local	4,750	4,700	4,550	50	200

Gulf Coast Region

	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	Changes from: 3/89	2/90	3/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	20,050	19,550	19,200	500	850
Goods-producing	4,600	4,150	4,500	450	100
Mining	850	850	750	0	100
Construction	950	800	850	150	100
Manufacturing	2,800	2,500	2,900	300	-100
Seafood Processing	1,850	1,550	2,050	300	-200
Service-producing	15,450	15,400	14,700	50	750
Transportation	1,550	1,550	1,550	0	0
Trade	3,250	3,250	3,200	0	50
Wholesale Trade	450	450	450	0	0
Retail Trade	2,800	2,800	2,750	0	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	550	500	500	50	50
Services & Misc.	3,850	3,800	3,650	50	200
Government	6,250	6,300	5,800	-50	450
Federal	550	550	500	0	50
State	1,900	1,900	1,750	0	150
Local	3,800	3,850	3,550	-50	250

Northern Region

	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	Changes from: 3/89	2/90	3/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,400	14,000	13,050	400	1,350
Goods-producing	6,000	5,650	5,100	350	900
Mining	5,450	5,200	4,750	250	700
Service-producing	8,400	8,350	7,950	50	450
Government	4,550	4,500	4,400	50	150
Federal	250	250	250	0	0
State	350	350	350	0	0
Local	3,950	3,900	3,800	50	150

Southwest Region

	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	Changes from: 3/89	2/90	3/89
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,950	14,500	14,650	450	300
Goods-producing	4,450	4,050	4,300	400	150
Seafood Processing	4,150	3,800	4,150	350	0
Service-producing	10,500	10,450	10,350	50	150
Government	6,400	6,400	6,400	0	0
Federal	1,350	1,350	1,350	0	0
State	550	550	550	0	0
Local	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1989 p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section

Table 5

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries [1/2]

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	3/89	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	3/89	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	3/89
Mining	$1,148.79	$1,062.23	$1,121.69	50.1	49.2	48.6	$22.93	$21.59	$23.08
Construction	1,109.42	1,017.98	911.20	46.4	43.3	40.0	23.91	23.51	22.78
Manufacturing	562.57	507.91	519.06	45.7	41.7	49.2	12.31	12.18	10.55
Seafood Processing	466.43	395.54	469.44	51.2	46.1	57.6	9.11	8.58	8.15
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	592.35	612.77	573.53	34.6	35.4	35.1	17.12	17.31	16.34
Trade	394.79	394.45	362.21	33.4	33.8	33.2	11.82	11.67	10.91
Wholesale	581.38	570.57	523.22	38.4	39.0	38.5	15.14	14.63	13.59
Retail	331.58	334.40	309.64	31.7	32.0	31.5	10.46	10.45	9.83
Finance-Ins. & R.E	415.71	420.20	415.23	35.5	36.1	35.1	11.71	11.64	11.83

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: March 1989

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

2/ Retail Trade excludes eating and drinking establishments.

Averages are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section

increases due to pipeline repair work. Laborer's Local 942 reported that placements with the project's prime contractor have been up over 50% since the beginning of the pipeline repair project. Another project, a pipeline being constructed for ARCO on the North Slope, also contributed to the boost in construction employment in March.

Southeast Alaska also had a healthy 21% monthly increase in construction employment in March. The 1990 construction season in Southeast is expected to be one of the strongest in the state, with construction projects throughout the panhandle contributing. If March's employment increase is an indicator, these high expectations will be fulfilled.

About the author:

John Boucher is a labor economist employed with the Research & Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. He is based in Juneau.

Wholesale, Retail Trade Jobs Add To March Expansion

The trade sector had the third largest employment gain in March, following manufacturing and construction. Both the wholesale and the retail side contributed to the growth. In wholesale trade, some of the additional employment is attributable to the rebounding construction industry. Wholesale outlets providing heavy machinery, equipment and supplies, as well as hardware, plumbing and heating supply stores have posted healthy employment gains. These two types of wholesalers are an excellent barometer of construction activity because they supply a good deal of the materials to construction contractors.

On the retail trade side, Anchorage was the center of the additional retail activity in March. Food stores and eating and drinking places both posted some slight gains in Anchorage during March. Retail trade contributed additional employment in every other region also, with most regions posting the largest job gains in eating and drinking establishments.

Air Transportation Gets Two Boosts For The Future

While statewide air transportation increased a mere 50 jobs in March, two announcements were recently made which bode well for Alaska's air transport industry. United Parcel Service (UPS) announced plans to construct a $3.6 million cargo handling facility in Anchorage. The facility will house a new base of operations for the company, and is designed to handle a large UPS expansion. What is encouraging about the announcement is that it comes prior to the award by the U.S. Department of Transportation of a new cargo route from Alaska to Japan. UPS and Emery Air Freight are vying for a route which will allow one of the two carriers to haul cargo between Alaska and Japan. Any major UPS expansion plans are probably contingent on a ruling in UPS's favor.

The second boost for the air transportation industry was Mark Air's recent announcement that they will be hiring up to 200 more people this year than last year to cover new and expanded seasonal routes. The airline's advance bookings are currently 30% ahead of last year. Most of the new routes will be added in Southwestern Alaska, although Valdez and the North Slope will also see some benefits from the service expansion.

Mining Grew, but Drift River Terminal Closure Jeopardizing Some Jobs

Mining employment posted a gain of 200 jobs in March with about 80 of the monthly gain occurring in hard rock mining and the balance of the gain in oil field services. Most of the gain in the hard rock mines were in Northern and Interior Alaska locations. In the oil industry, drilling and other oil field services companies continue to be the main source of growth.

One negative for oil field services firms occurred in March. A squeeze is beginning to be felt by firms servicing oil platforms shut down due to the Drift River oil terminal closure. Contractors and service firms indicated late in the month that some layoffs were imminent. It's estimated that more than 550 jobs are dependent upon oil production from the west side of Cook Inlet.

Summary: March The Catalyst for Annual Seasonal Takeoff

March employment and unemployment figures indicated that Alaska's annual seasonal turnaround has begun. The manufacturing, construction and trade sectors started the process, thanks to winter fisheries activity, some oil industry-related construction projects, the gearing up of logging operations and broad based wholesale and retail trade activity. Other industries exhibited a hint of future employment growth, including the hard rock mining and air transportation industries.

The next few months will be interesting ones on Alaska's employment scene, as the one-year anniversary of the peak work force of the oil spill cleanup approaches. While over-the-year total employment growth comparisons are expected to slow dramatically in the next few months, Alaska's economy is still on the growth path.

A Free Practicum for Alaska Job Counselors

A "How to" Workshop in Fairbanks for teachers and counselors:

"Career Decision Making Using Labor Market Information"

This two-day workshop is designed to train teachers and counselors to help individuals use labor market information in making decisions about occupations and careers.

DATES: In Fairbanks - May 29-30 at Noel Wien Library Conference Room.

PRESENTERS: Sally Saddler, Larry Davis and Neal Fried of the Alaska Department of Labor (DOL) and Jan Smith of the Alaska Department of Education.

CREDIT: Counselors completing this workshop can receive credit toward professional recertification through the National Board for Certified Counselors.

CLASS LIMIT: 30.

More information is available from DOL's Research & Analysis Section, 465-4500.

Workshop participants will:

- **Observe videotaped dramatizations of case studies about "special needs clients,"**
- **Learn of the processes used to arrive at workable solutions for the clients; and**
- **Explore through exercises, lectures, and video presentations the role of labor market information in a changing world and how this information can improve career decision making.**

Table 6

Labor Force By Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	3/89	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	3/89	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	3/89	p/ 3/90	r/ 2/90	3/89
Alaska Statewide	252,157	253,367	244,476	19,925	22,273	19,696	7.9%	8.8%	8.1%	232,232	231,094	224,780
Anch.-MatSu Region	131,495	132,675	127,319	8,502	9,326	8,516	6.5	7.0	6.7	122,993	123,349	118,803
Anchorage Borough	116,268	116,743	112,690	6,441	6,841	6,481	5.5	5.9	5.8	109,827	109,902	106,209
MatSu Borough	15,227	15,932	14,629	2,061	2,485	2,035	13.5	15.6	13.9	13,166	13,447	12,594
Gulf Coast Region	27,554	27,818	26,214	3,554	4,138	2,963	12.9	14.9	11.3	24,000	23,680	23,251
Kenai Peninsula Borough	17,160	17,330	16,542	2,455	2,821	2,296	14.3	16.3	13.9	14,705	14,509	14,246
Kodiak Island Borough	5,945	6,057	5,603	342	528	175	5.8	8.7	3.1	5,603	5,529	5,428
Valdez-Cordova	4,449	4,431	4,069	757	789	492	17.0	17.8	12.1	3,692	3,642	3,577
Interior Region	35,646	35,766	34,919	3,698	3,932	3,947	10.4	11.0	11.3	31,948	31,834	30,972
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	30,569	30,710	30,013	2,867	3,108	3,158	9.4	10.1	10.5	27,702	27,602	26,855
Southeast Fairbanks	2,116	2,136	2,024	346	372	308	16.4	17.4	15.2	1,770	1,764	1,716
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,961	2,920	2,882	485	452	481	16.4	15.5	16.7	2,476	2,468	2,401
Northern Region	8,685	8,567	8,119	693	674	634	8.0	7.9	7.8	7,992	7,893	7,485
Nome	3,219	3,193	3,016	296	305	278	9.2	9.6	9.2	2,923	2,888	2,738
North Slope Borough	3,130	3,098	2,973	107	113	142	3.4	3.6	4.8	3,023	2,985	2,831
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,336	2,276	2,130	290	256	214	12.4	11.2	10.0	2,046	2,020	1,916
Southeast Region	35,226	35,268	34,411	2,802	3,626	3,005	8.0	10.3	8.7	32,424	31,642	31,406
Haines Borough	856	848	860	85	96	113	9.9	11.3	13.1	771	752	747
Juneau Borough	15,440	15,235	15,013	777	926	810	5.0	6.1	5.4	14,663	14,309	14,203
Ketchikan Gateway Bor.	6,658	6,752	6,451	649	888	631	9.7	13.2	9.8	6,009	5,864	5,820
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch.	2,742	2,800	2,685	351	466	369	12.8	16.6	13.7	2,391	2,334	2,316
Sitka Borough	4,063	4,034	3,948	244	307	249	6.0	7.6	6.3	3,819	3,727	3,699
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	1,806	1,869	1,805	313	412	359	17.3	22.0	19.9	1,493	1,457	1,446
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,661	3,730	3,649	383	531	474	10.5	14.2	13.0	3,278	3,199	3,175
Southwest Region	13,351	13,273	13,494	676	577	631	5.0	4.3	4.7	12,875	12,696	12,863
Aleutians East Borough	954	939	949	12	10	7	1.3	1.1	0.7	942	929	942
Aleutians West	2,676	2,637	2,669	36	33	31	1.3	1.3	1.2	2,640	2,604	2,638
Bethel	5,151	5,035	5,169	271	223	293	5.3	4.4	5.7	4,880	4,812	4,876
Bristol Bay Borough	529	521	536	31	30	39	5.9	5.8	7.3	498	491	497
Dillingham	2,479	2,458	2,453	148	159	124	6.0	6.5	5.1	2,331	2,299	2,329
Wade Hampton	1,762	1,683	1,718	178	122	137	10.1	7.2	8.0	1,584	1,561	1,581

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: 1989

- Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey in formulas used to allocate federal funds.
- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.
- The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.
- The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment tables.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Alaska Economic Regions

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